

Appl. No. 09/778,652
Atty. Docket No. 9116-392 (P&G Case 8435L)
Amdt. dated 06/28/2005
Reply to Office Action of 04/20/2005
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A noninvasive method for monitoring at least one hair characteristic on a human or animal, comprising
magnifying a predetermined skin area having at least one reference indicium to provide a first magnified image, whereby said at least one reference indicium facilitates successive monitoring of the same predetermined skin area;
digitally capturing the first magnified image to form a reference image, wherein said first magnified image uses only a red color component;
wherein said second magnified image uses green and blue color components;
after a predetermined time period, magnifying the predetermined skin area to provide a second magnified image; and
superimposing the second magnified image on the reference image to align the reference indicia in the second magnified image with the reference indicia in the reference image.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising digitally capturing the superimposed images to form a treatment image.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second magnified images are provided by contacting the predetermined skin area with a fiber optic remote head video microscope.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the fiber optic remote head video microscope includes a transparent member adapted to contact the predetermined skin area and flatten hairs within the predetermined skin area.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein an optical coupling liquid is applied to the predetermined skin area prior to contact of the predetermined skin area with the fiber optic remote head video microscope.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the optical coupling liquid comprises water.

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7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the optical coupling liquid comprises mineral oil.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined skin area comprises a scalp area and the at least one reference indicium comprises a tatoo.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined skin area comprises a transitional scalp area.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein hair in the predetermined skin area is clipped prior to magnification to provide the first magnified image.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined skin area is magnified greater than ten fold to provide the first and second magnified images.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined skin area is magnified greater than twenty fold to provide the first and second magnified images.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the reference image and the treatment image are compared to evaluate the respective lengths of individual hairs in the images.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the reference image and the treatment image are compared to evaluate the respective hair shaft diameters of individual hairs in the images.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the reference image and the treatment image are compared to evaluate the respective numbers of individual hairs in the images.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the reference image and the treatment image are compared to evaluate the respective lengths, hair shaft diameters and numbers of individual hairs in the images.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein after a further predetermined time period, the predetermined skin area is magnified to provide a third

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magnified image, and further wherein the third magnified image is superimposed on the reference image or the treatment image to align the reference indicia in the third magnified image with the reference indicia in the reference image or the treatment image, respectively.

20. (Original) A noninvasive method for monitoring at least one hair characteristic on a human or animal, comprising

magnifying a predetermined skin area having reference indicia to provide a first magnified image;

digitally capturing the first magnified image to form a reference image using only a red color component;

after a predetermined time period, magnifying the predetermined skin area to provide a second magnified image;

superimposing the second magnified image using green and blue color components on the reference image to align the reference indicia in the second magnified image with the reference indicia in the reference image; and

digitally capturing the superimposed images to form a treatment image wherein the first and second magnified images are provided by contacting the predetermined skin area with a fiber optic remote head video microscope.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined skin area is magnified greater than twenty fold to provide the first and second magnified images.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the reference image and the treatment image are compared to evaluate the respective lengths of individual hairs in the images wherein said reference indicia facilitate successive monitoring of said predetermined skin area.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the reference image and the treatment image are compared to evaluate the respective hair shaft diameters of individual hairs in the images.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the reference image and the treatment image are compared to evaluate the respective numbers of individual hairs in the images.

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25. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the reference image and the treatment image are compared to evaluate the respective lengths, hair shaft diameters and numbers of individual hairs in the images.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined skin area comprises a transitional scalp area.

27-34. (Canceled)